

# THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

Vol. 7, No. 10

October, 1940

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RAILROAD NOTES

HENRY CLAY MEDALS

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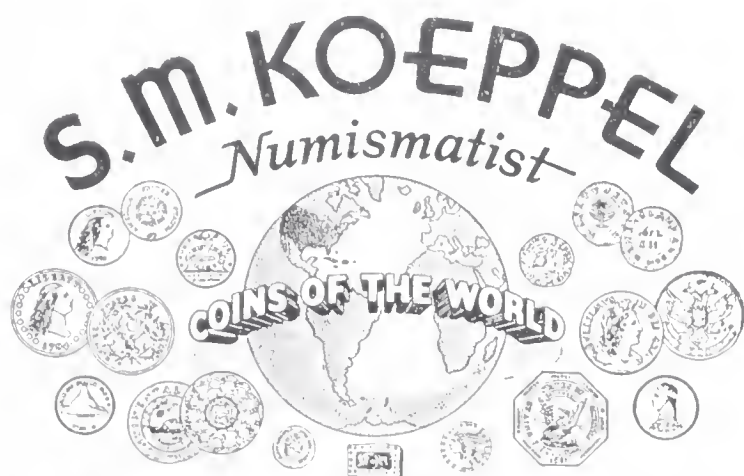
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# THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

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Vol. 7, No. 10

New York, October, 1940

Whole No. 66

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Inquiries are beginning to come in regarding the publication date of the 1941 Standard Catalogue of U. S. Coins & Tokens. The publishers expect to place this valuable reference work on the market during the last week in November. There are a great number of valuation changes and much new material to be included in the new edition and no up to date collector can afford to be without it. By the way, a complete set of the catalogues 1935 to 1940 is not at all easy to obtain now a days.

The ever popular blue covered Standard Price List will be ready one week earlier than the larger catalogue. In addition to the usual material and many price changes a number of new features are planned.

At about the same time that this Journal is being mailed our latest Coin Collector Series publication the "Silver Ecus of France" will be sent to subscribers. The introduction by Shepard Pond is a real numismatic contribution.

The list of Transportation Notes by D. C. Wismer will be continued in the November Journal. This important contribution is causing considerable comment among collectors as the subject has never been expertized before. The entire list will be completed in the

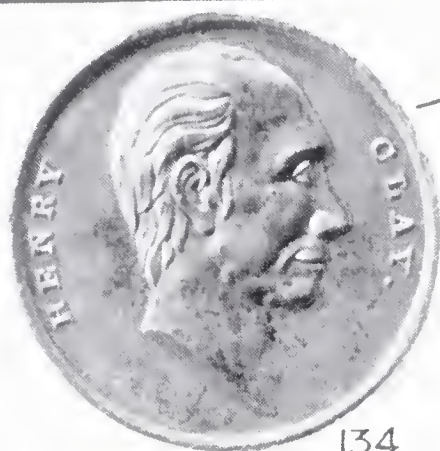
Journal. Collectors having unpublished notes are urged to communicate with the editor. Full credit will be given.

Many auction sales are already being advertised for the coming season and it would seem that collectors will have the chance to add materially to their holdings.

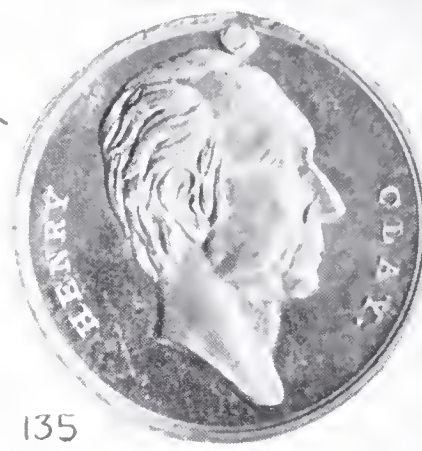
Mr. H. F. Bowker is making a study of Henry Alexander Ramsden, formerly editor of the *Numismatic and Philatelic Journal of Japan* and partner in the firm of Jun Kobayagawa Company of Yokohama. He desires to obtain any letters, advertising circulars, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, or other data issued by or referring in any way to Ramsden or the above-mentioned company. Ramsden was a prolific writer on the subject of far eastern numismatics and most of his letters contain valuable information not published elsewhere. This data is desired to supplement extensive data obtained thru the courtesy of the Essex Institute of Salem, Mass. and the American Numismatic Society of New York.

Any information obtained will be appropriately acknowledged and material loaned will be promptly returned and reimbursement made of any expenses incurred for postage. Mr. Bowker should be addressed care of the U.S.S. SEATTLE, Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York.

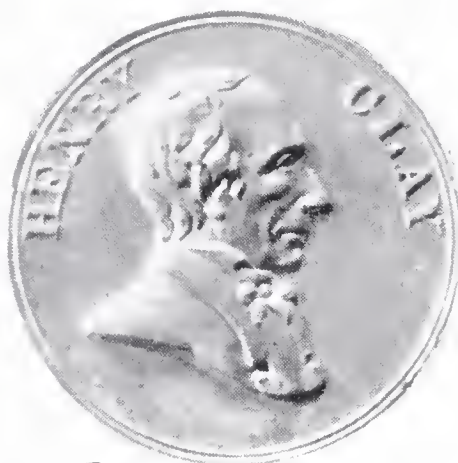




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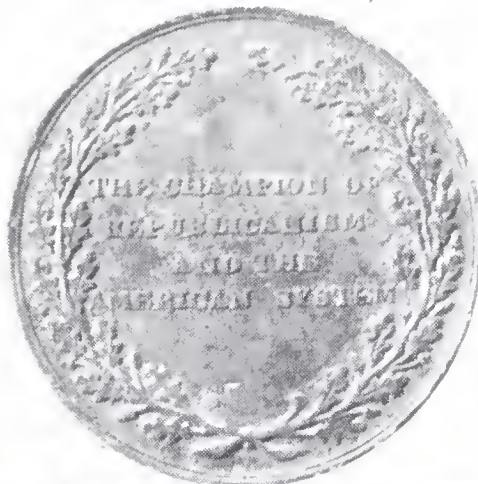
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# Biographical Notes on the Presidents and Presidential Candidates of the United States

By ALFRED Z. REED

(Continued from page 254)

## HENRY CLAY NOTES

1. S. 139, SLASHES OF HANOVER.
2. S. 151, THE MILLBOY OF THE SLASHES. Other common nicknames were THE STAR OF THE WEST (S. 142) and HARRY OF THE WEST (S. 156).
3. S. 119, SENATE 1806. S. 131 (132), ENTERED CONGRESS 1806.
4. Raymond, Delaware 1 (Adams, Delaware 1, 2), C. & D. CANAL.
5. S. 141, 158, 159, THE ASHLAND FARMER. S. 160, THE FARMER OF ASHLAND.
6. S. 119, SPEAKER 1811. S. 131 (132), ELECTED SPEAKER 1811.
7. S. 119, WAR OF 1812 WITH GREAT BRITAIN.
8. S. 119, GHENT 1814. S. 131 (132), TREATY OF GHENT 1814.
9. December 21, 1816. He supported the Society all his life, delivering a speech before it Jan. 20, 1827, endorsing its activities in a Senate speech advocating distribution to the states of proceeds from the sales of public lands in 1832, and becoming its president in 1836. In 1842 he endorsed African colonization as a better solution of the slavery problem than immediate abolition. His will provided that the offspring of his slaves should be freed at a certain age and supplied with funds to transport them to Africa. Compare the LIBERIA token, Bushnell, Miscellaneous, 34, 35.
10. S. 119, SPANISH AMERICA 1818-1822. A speech delivered March 24, 1818, is said to have been translated into Spanish and read at the head of regiments. In March, 1822, President Monroe recommended recognition of the new states.
11. S. 119, MISSOURI COMPROMISE 1821.
12. Clay's speech of Jan. 19, 1824, attacked the constitutional arguments used by President Monroe in a recent message vetoing a bill to appropriate money for the repair of the Cumberland road. This may be the reason why admirers later chose the western terminus of the road, on the Ohio River near Wheeling, as the site for a monument erected "as a testimony of respect to Henry Clay, the eloquent defender of national rights and national independence". The monument was reproduced as the frontispiece to the second volume of Daniel Mallory's **Life and Speeches of the Hon. Henry Clay**, published in 1844 for use in the campaign of that year. The language is copied on S. 120 and 143 (144), THE ELOQUENT DEFENDER, etc.
13. S. 119, GREECE 1824.
14. S. 119, 120, 136, 146 (147).
15. See "John Quincy Adams", **Coin Collector's Journal**, vol. 4 (January, 1938), p. 242.
16. S. 119, 131 (132).
17. As to Jackson's Harvard LL.D. eight years later, see "Andrew Jackson", **Coin Collector's Journal**, vol. 5 (April, 1938), pp. 4, 6.
18. S. 119, PANAMA INSTRUCTIONS 1826. The instructions were dated May 8, 1826, but owing to delays caused by isolationist Senators the







- Congress broke up before the United States delegates arrived.
19. Clay's language was, "if the measure of protection to any article can be demonstrated to be undue and inordinate, it would be the duty of Congress to interpose and apply a remedy—But to make it fulfill the purpose of its institution, the measure of protection ought to be adequate". The platform declared, "That an adequate protection to American industry is indispensable to the prosperity of this country". S. 133, EQUAL AND FULL PROTECTION TO AMERICAN INDUSTRY, is closer to Clay's speech than to the platform plank.
  20. For the tokens called forth by the Bank controversy see "Andrew Jackson", pp. 11-17.
  21. S. 119, TARIFF COMPROMISE 1833.
  22. S. 119, PUBLIC DOMAIN 1833-1841, June 20, 1832, and Jan. 28, 1841, were the dates of Clay's principal speeches in support of this policy, which he had already recommended in 1831 and in his tariff speech of February 1832. The date 1833 refers to a brief speech denouncing Jackson's veto of his bill. Clay suggested that the states might use the proceeds either for internal improvements or for transportation of their negroes to Liberia (see above, note 9). The policy was endorsed in the Whig platform and denounced in the Democratic platform of 1844.
  23. See "Andrew Jackson", p. 4.
  24. S. 119, PEACE WITH FRANCE PRESERVED 1835. As to a possible remote connection between this controversy and the use of Robert Goodloe Harper's toast "Millions for defense but not a cent for tribute" on tokens of 1837, see "Hard Times Tokens", **Coin Collector's Journal**, vol. 6 (April, 1939), p. 18.
  25. S. 157, I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN BE PRESIDENT. The advice was given by Senator Preston of South Carolina, whose attack upon Jackson's financial "experiment" five years previously is reflected in Low 8, etc. (See "Andrew Jackson", p. 8). He made public Clay's reply not long after this, at a Whig meeting in Philadelphia.
  26. S. 141, THE SAME OLD COON. Compare a cartoon now in the Boston Athenaeum, reproduced opposite p. 358 of G. G. Van Deusen's *Life of Henry Clay*. The immediate origin of the phrase as applied to Clay is undoubtedly a Whig campaign song published in 1843, "High on a limb that 'same old coon' was singing to himself this tune:—Get out of the way, you're all unlucky; Clear the way for old Kentucky!" The use of quotes shows, however, that the expression itself was already in current use. According to the Oxford Dictionary the raccoon was used as the symbol of the Whig party as early as 1839. Live coons were paraded by the Whigs at their 1844 convention, skinned coons were flaunted by the Democrats after Clay's defeat (Van Deusen, pp. 364, 367, 369, 377).
  27. S. 137 (138), THE GREAT CONVENTION/HELD AT BALTIMORE/MAY 1844.
  28. Born Aug. 4, 1817, died April 12, 1862. United States Senator 1829-1835, chancellor of the University of New York 1838-1850, president of Rutgers College 1850-1862. S. 152, 153, 154.
  29. References to a protective tariff, variously phrased, appear on S. 121 (122, 123), 134, 135, 140, 148, 149 (150), 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 158. Compare above, note 19.
  30. S. 127, YOUNG MEN'S CONVENTION/BALTIMORE, MAY 1844.
  31. S. 119, COMPROMISE 1850.

## DATES AND ORDER OF CLAY PIECES

Of thirty-seven Clay medals, excluding metal varieties, listed by Satterlee, I think only two are earlier than the campaign of 1844. S. 131 (132) was apparently struck in celebration of his appointment as Secretary of State, either at that date (1825) or possibly some years later. S. 133 was engraved by True who made TROY pieces, dated 1835, in the Hard Times Series, and refers to a protective tariff in language similar to that used in 1832 (See above, note 19). It need not be assumed that the T on S. 165, dated for the 1844 campaign, stands for True.

The workmanship of S. 146 (147) is so different from that of the other pieces as to suggest an earlier date, but it is difficult to see how the reverse inscription UNITED WE STAND can be other than an abbreviation of the full UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL which appears on S. 142 and 164, both belonging to the 1844 campaign. The phrase itself goes back to Aesop, but had been revived in 1840 as a line in a Harrison campaign song written to the tune of The Old Oaken Bucket by G. P. Morris, author of "Woodman, Spare That Tree." On May 4, 1840, Clay had promoted party solidarity by appearing at the Whig National Convention of York, open (S. 68) and declaring according to Mallory (the bold is his): "We are all Whigs. We are all Harrison men. **We are united.** We must triumph."

In other instances, not clear on their face, the argument for a late date runs as follows:

S. 121 (122, 123). Same obverse as dated 124 (125).

S. 136. Copper, size 24, is not found in earlier years.

S. 139. THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE. Compare dated 134.

S. 141. See above, note 26. Dated also by O.K.

S. 148. Dated by its small size and numerous metals.

S. 149 (150). Dated by the number of stars (26) representing states in the Union.

S. 155. Brass shells are not known before 1844.

S. 159. Correctly dated 1844 on the obverse, but uses the reverse die of a Harrison piece, S. 98, dated 1840.

S. 160. Inscription resembles that of the dated 158.

Five pieces are later than 1844: S. 119, 120, 126 (with an 1844 obverse), 143 (144), and 157. The data for S. 119 were supplied by Clay himself Sept. 26, 1851, and a specimen in pure California gold was presented to him Feb. 9, 1852. He included, in his list of the services for which he wished especially to be remembered, his attempts to further internal improvements, but said that no definite dates could be assigned for these. Probably for this reason, they were omitted from Wright's design, but the silver case containing Clay's own gold medal bore a picture of the Cumberland road monument. (Colton, **Private Correspondence of Henry Clay**, N. Y., 1856, pp. 620-22, and compare above, note 12).

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# Chinese Books in the Library of the American Numismatic Society

By H. F. BOWKER

The most valuable and authoritative work on Chinese numismatics in the collection is *Ku Ch'uan Hui* 古泉匯<sup>266</sup>, originally published in 1864 by *Li Tso-hsien* 李佐賢. This should be Romanized as "Ancient Exchange Coins" and not "Ancient Coin Exchange", as it is sometimes called. It is the most comprehensive and reliable publication in Chinese on the subject of the coinage of all dynasties. The author, being somewhat more of a realist than most Chinese commentators on the ancient coinage of their country, has a tendency to minimize the age of the early token pieces. Where other writers attribute coins to such legendary personages as *Fu Hi* 伏羲 and *Shen Nung* 神農, (B.C. 2852-2705), he attributes them more rationally to the historical periods of the *Chow* dynasty 周代, (1122-255 B.C.). The eminent Dr. Bretschneider wrote, "my opinion is that the Chinese of the present day (1870) are nearly idiots and incapable of a sensible critique." This particular work is an exception to the rule, and I can do no better than to quote Dr. S. W. Bushell with regard to it:

"The coins are classified in four divisions, the first comprising the *pu* 布 of various forms, the second the *tao* 刀 - knife-cash of the *Ch'i* 齊 and other states of the Divided Kingdoms of the *Chou* dynasty 周代 - the third, the typical round coins subdivided into national, rebel, and foreign, the former ranging from the *Chou* and the

*Ch'in* 金 to the end of the *Ming*, the latter including only such specimens whose legends are in the native character; the fourth and last, a miscellaneous selection of coins of uncertain date of unusual form, charms, Taoist and Buddhist medals &c., concluding with a collection of ancient coin moulds. In all, several thousand (5003) varieties are described and figured, on which the author observes: 'My rule in this work has been to include no specimen that I have not myself seen and examined and altho there are one or two copied from previous authors I have made up my mind positively that these are not false before venturing to include them in my catalogue. Such as on examination appeared at all doubtful as to their genuineness, I immediately rejected.' The author in his preface gives a long list of his fellow-workers from whose collections many rare specimens are figured, which includes the names of some who have occupied the highest posts in the Empire, indicating the vigour with which the study of antiquity is prosecuted by some of the most learned Chinese scholars."

A supplement entitled *Hsu Ch'uan Hui* 續泉匯<sup>199</sup> in four *chuan* by *Li Tso-hsien* and *Pao K'ang* 鮑康, originally published in 1875, describes and figures 984 additional coins. The chapters in the supplement are numbered to conform to the numbering used in the original work. The 8th to 11th *chuan* figure coin moulds. The two sets in the library have the supplement issued as a part of and in the same format as the original work, one being arranged

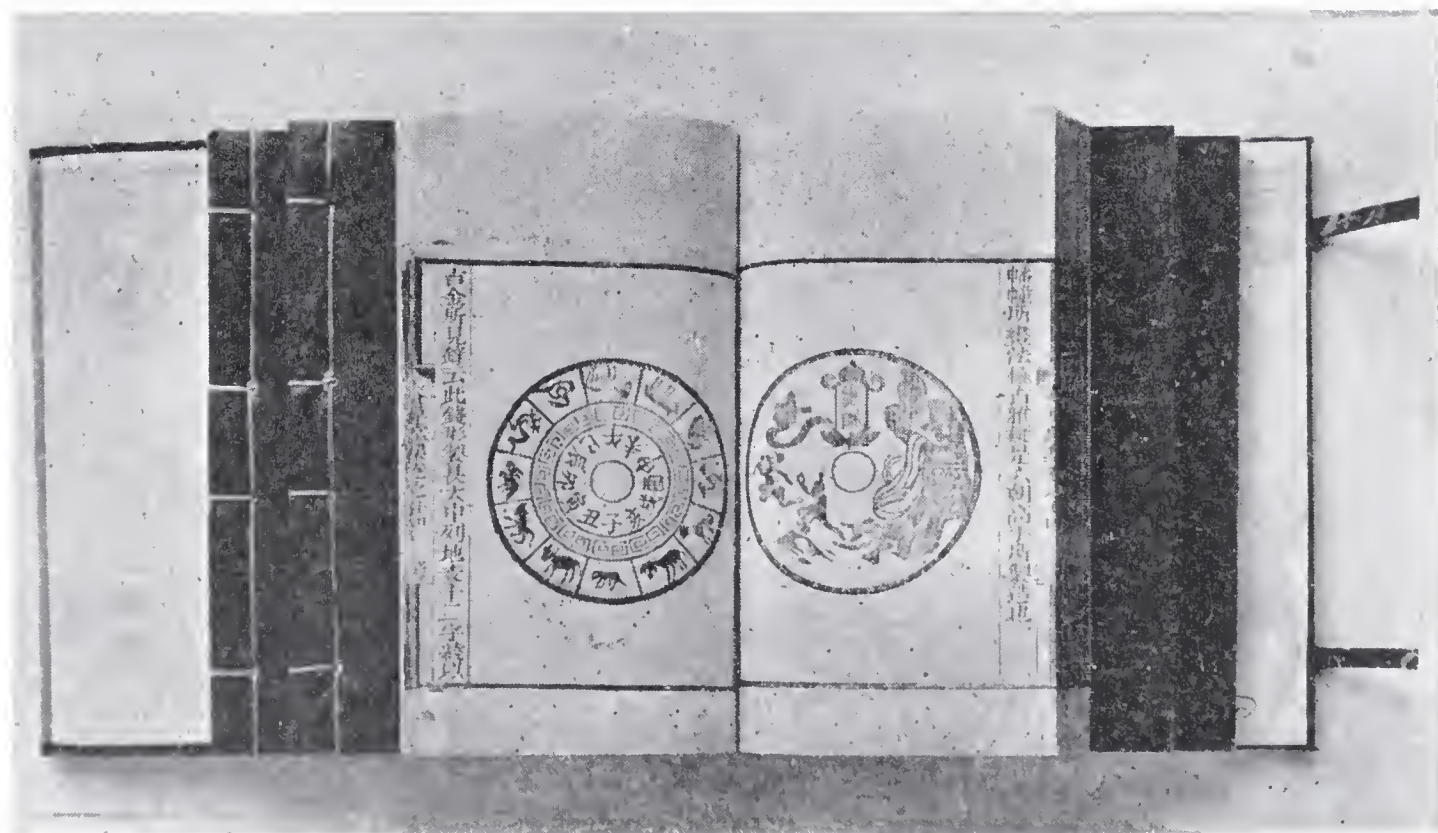
in 20 *chuan* in three *tao*, the other having the same number of chapters arranged in four binders. The former set has an additional page of text (number 19 of *yüan* 元 four), which indicates that it is a later edition.

Another work entitled *Ku Chin Ch'ien Lueh* 古今錢略<sup>245</sup>, published in 1877 in 16 *chuan* is also in the library; and an incomplete set, lacking *chuan* five and six, of *Sun Chai Su Ts'ang Ch'ien Lu* 巽齋所藏錢錄\*, a reprint on inferior paper.

The work *Ch'in Ting Ta Ching Hui Tien* 欽定大清會典\*, in six *tao* and 52 *chuan*, of which the library possesses a set, contains chapter on coinage of which C. B. Hillier presented a summary to the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1847, and which was published in the Transactions of that Society for that year. The laws and regulations pertaining to the nineteen mints in operation for casting cash are given. Here is recorded the curious fact that twenty percent of the cash cast in the mints of Tibet, Ili, and

Hwuyching were henceforth to continue to be inscribed with the name *Ch'ien Lung* in commemoration of his conquest of the New Dominion, Sinkiang, even though he had been dead since 1796. Some idea of the immense quantity of cash then required for the business of the empire is gained from the fact that one mint, Canton, annually cast 34,560,000 pieces, and in years having an intercalary or thirteenth month, the casting of an additional 2,880,000 pieces was authorized. The penal laws against forging and clipping the currency are also given.

A number of works of lesser importance, including *Chi Chin Chih Ts'un* 吉金志存\*, *Ku Ch'in Tai Wen Lu* 古金待問錄<sup>256</sup>, *Ku Ch'uan Tsa Yung* 古泉雜詠\*, and *T'un An Ku Ch'uan T'sun*, 遜齋古泉存\* are also in the collection. The last-named has five printed and twenty-three handwritten folio pages, followed by seven *chuan* of rubbings, taken directly from the coins by the Japanese *uchigata* manner.



A typical Chinese work on numismatics, showing method of binding and cover to keep the several sections together.



The only work dealing with the copper coinage of the *Ch'ing* dynasty in the collection is *Ku Kung Ch'ing Ch'ien P'u* 故宮清錢譜<sup>291</sup>, or "Old Palace Museum Collection of Ching Coins," published in the traditional Chinese style in 1937. This is an important work and has a markedly different tone than the older works, which followed conventional lines closely, and seldom, if ever, deviated one iota from the path laid down by ancient commentators. The outstanding contribution contained in it is the thesis that the coins bearing the names of, and formerly attributed to, the reigns of the earlier *Ch'ing* sovereigns, were not contemporaneous with those emperors, but were issued by later ones after the dynasty had been well established out of filial respect for their ancestors. This most probably conforms to the facts, altho no authentic record in substantiation seems to have survived.

There are also some curious and interesting minor works which depict a side-light on an obscure phase of Chinese numismatics. These are the small handbooks intended for the instruction of the schroffs or cashiers, of which every firm, native or foreign, has one or more. While purporting to show how the altered or lightweight coins could be detected, they most probably also served as instructions to the wily native intending making his fortune by tampering with the then popular circulating medium, the Mexican dollar. Up to the time that silver was nationalized in China, false or lightweight silver coins were a recognized commodity in the channels of trade, of course at a substantial discount. The writer recalls the lamentations of his wife who had accepted a bad dollar with her change on a shopping tour of Hankow in 1924, and which no shopkeeper would accept—from her. On overhearing her story told at tiffin, the number one houseboy offered her forty cents for it, that being probably somewhat less than half what

he could sell it for to a nearby money exchange shop, who would again put it back into circulation—at a profit—by means best-known to them.

One such is entitled *Hui Hsiang Yin Lun Mi Shu* 繪像銀論秘書\* or "Secret Book of Drawings of False Silver," published in Peking in 1844 by *Fu Kuei-t'ang* 富桂堂. It is small volume of 53 folio pages with many illustrations of the manner in which false coiners tampered with the foreign dollars. The figures show graphically the varying percentage of silver cut from dollars and replaced by base metal. This copy is inscribed "The Chinese Coin Detector" in the hand of its donor, William Frederick Mayers, author of numerous standard works on Chinese subjects, including "The Chinese Government" and "The Chinese Reader's Manual." Another is from the library of Caleb Cushing, first United States Minister to China, and later Attorney General of the United States, which was dispersed in Boston in 1879. It is entitled *Yang Ch'ing Yin Lun* 楊清銀論\*, or "Discourses on False Silver." These works are similar to another which is fully described in an article entitled "The Schroff's Mystery," by Alfred Lister in the July 1873 issue of *The China Review*.

All of the books above-mentioned are typical Chinese productions, mostly printed from woodblocks and bound in the Chinese manner. Volumes on numismatics are now being produced in China printed in western style; and the library has one such, *Chung Hwa Pi Chih Shih* 中華幣制史\*, or "History of Chinese Money."


THE END

Superior figures refer to "A Bibliography on Far Eastern Numismatics" by A. B. Coole, 1940.

\* Not in Coole.







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## RAILROAD NOTES

By H. R. STEPHENS

### The Annapolis & Elkridge Railroad Company

The A. & E. RR Co. was chartered by the State of Maryland March 21st, 1837. The company contracted to construct a railroad from Annapolis, Md., to Junction (B. & O. R.R.) Md., a distance of a little over 20 miles. The line of road was opened for traffic December 26, 1840, rail used being 50 lb., and gauge 4' 8½".

Under date of November 10th, 1885, this line was sold at foreclosure for \$100,000 for benefit of bondholders, being reorganized in April, 1866 under name of Annapolis, Washington and Baltimore R.R. Co.

On Feb. 26, 1903, the A. W. & B. R.R. Co. was purchased by the Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Ry. from the Baltimore and Annapolis Short Line R.R., owners of the capital stock of the A. W. & B. R.R. Co. the W. B. & A. Elec. Ry. is successor of the Potomac & Severn (chartered 1899) and Washington & Annapolis Elec. Ry., and operated under a perpetual charter. This is the first instance of a road being originally chartered for steam or horse becoming a part of our present day electric railway system, this line still being operated.

### The Hot Springs Railroad Company

This company was chartered July 28, 1870 under the laws of Arkansas, and opened for operation in Nov. 1875 run-

ning from Malvern, Ark., on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern, 43 miles south of Little Rock, Ark., to the Hot Springs of Ark., a distance of approximately 25 miles. Later a branch was built from Benton to Butterfield, Ark., a distance of 18 miles.

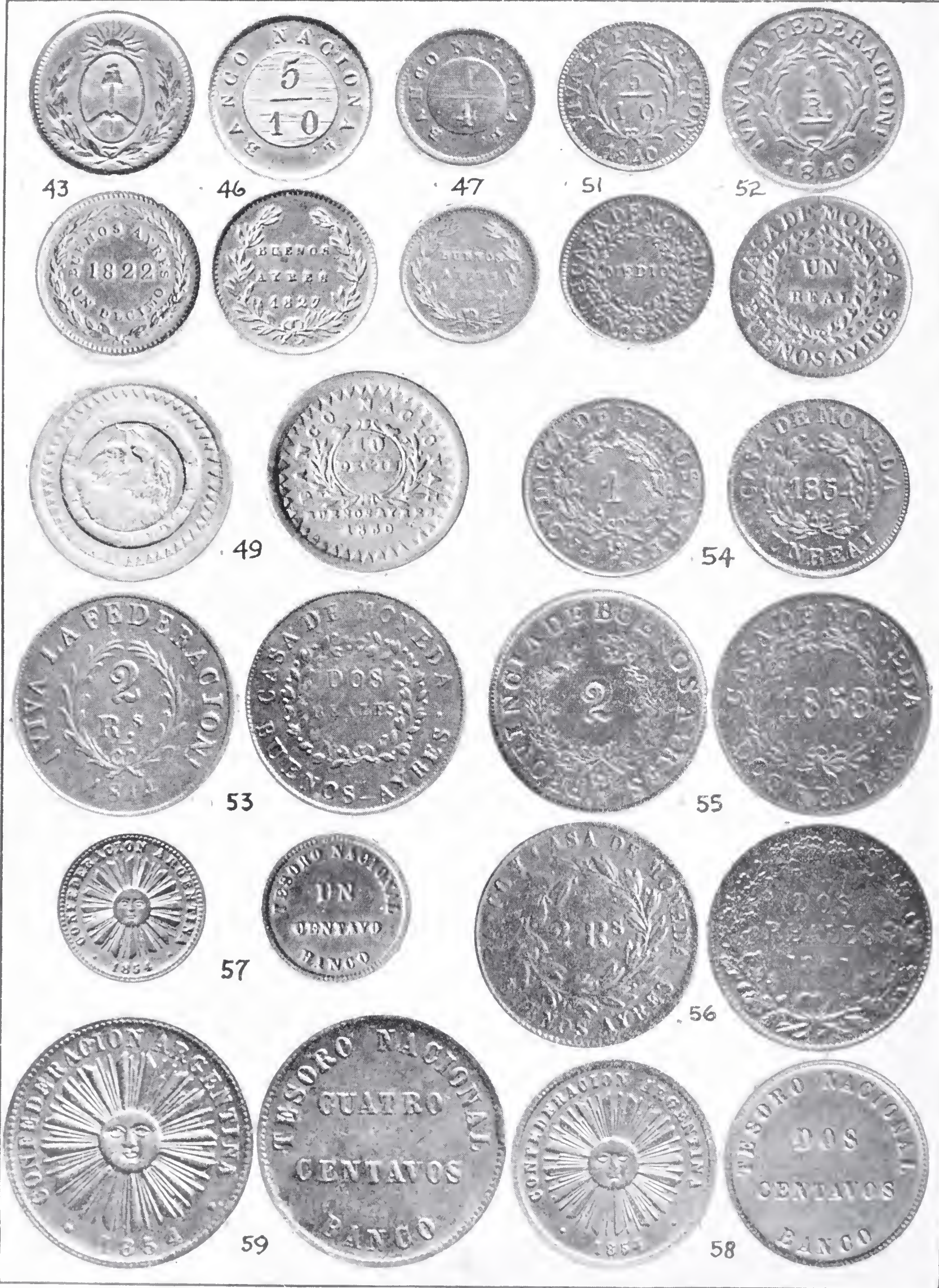
On May 3, 1902 this line was sold to the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad, this latter road being controlled by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Ry.

### The Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad Co.

The A. & St. L. was a corporation of the States of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, being chartered at various dates during 1845-47 and 48. The purpose of this incorporation was to construct a railroad from Portland, Me., to a connection on the Canadian border with a railroad to be constructed by the St. Lawrence and Atlantic R.R. Co., a Canadian corporation.

Construction on the A. & St. L. was commenced July 4, 1846 and road opened from Portland to Island Point, Vt. January 20, 1853. The line to be built from Island Point to the border by the St. L. & A., a Canadian corporation, was held up as right-of-way was in the U. S. In August 1853, under the sanction of the several states' legislatures, the line was leased to the Grand Trunk Ry. of Canada for a period of 999 years, lessee assuming all outstanding obligations and guaranteeing 6 percent on stock.







COINS OF ARGENTINA

(Continued from page 256)

COPPER COINS

Buenos Aires

43	Decimo 1822, 23 Buenos Aires. Arms. R Value ..... Struck in Birmingham	.35
44	20 Decimos 1827. Banco Na- cional .....	1.00
45	10 Decimos 1827. Similar ..	1.00
46	5 Decimos 1827. Fraction .....	.35
47	¼ Real 1827. Similar .....	2.00
48	20 Decimos 1830, 31 Banco Nacional .....	1.00
49	10 Decimos 1828, 30. Similar	1.00
50	5 Decimos 1828, 30, 31. Similar .....	.35
51	½ Real 1840 (5 Decimos). Fraction. R Value in wreath—MEDIO .....	1.00
52	1 Real 1840. Similar .....	.35
53	2 Reales 1840, 44. Similar. DOS REALES .....	.35
54	1 Real 1854. Large 1 in wreath. R Date in wreath	2.00
55	2 Reales 1853-56. Large 2 in wreath. R Date in wreath .....	.35
56	2 Reales 1860, 61. 2 Rs in wreath. R DOS REALES and date in wreath .....	.35

Confederacion Argentina

57	1 Centavo 1854. Sun. R Value	.25
58	2 Centavos 1854. Similar ..	.35
59	4 Centavos 1854. Similar ..	.50

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

Coins struck under the law of  
Nov. 3, 1881.

60	Peso 1881-83. Liberty head. R Arms .....	2.50
61	50 Centavos 1881-83. Similar	1.00
62	20 Centavos 1881-83. Similar	.50
63	10 Centavos 1881-83. Similar	.25

Nickel

64	20 Centavos 1896-99, 1905-32, 35, 36. Liberty head. R Value .....	.25
65	10 Centavos 1896-99, 1905-37. Similar .....	.15
66	5 Centavos 1896-99, 1903-37. Similar .....	.10

Copper

67	2 Centavos 1882-96. Liberty head. R Arms ..	.15
68	1 Centavo 1882-96. Similar	.10
69	1 Centavo 1939. Arms. R Value .....	.10
70	2 Centavos 1939. Similar ..	.10

## 1799 CENTS

*From the Coin Collectors Journal. June 1880**The illustrations supplied from the Standard Catalogue  
of United States Coins and Tokens*

\*No. 1, with reverse A. Over 1798. The date is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  wide through its centre, and is properly spaced; the 1 is  $\frac{1}{2}$  distant from the lower curl; the 7 is  $1\frac{1}{3}$  distant from same point; the final 9 is perfectly upright in its position, which gives it the appearance of being independent of the other figures; traces of the 8, over which it was cut, are visible; mainly in a line which connects the knob of the 9 to the loop forming the body of the figure: width of LIBERTY at base,  $9\frac{1}{3}$ ; from the tip of the nose to nearest point of Y is  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , and from the same point to lowest point of L the distance is 10; E is a trifle below the line.



1799 over 98 Cent

Reverse Length of the right stem from center of the knot is  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ; and the left  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ; distance between the ribbon ends  $4\frac{1}{3}$ ; the denominator of the fraction is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  wide, figures small and well shaped; while the dividing line of fraction is but  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in length; the letters are evenly spaced; C in CENT is below the line and is touched by a leaf on the left; width of AMERICA at base is  $9\frac{3}{4}$ .

Note. In reference to the above-described cent we wish to impress upon the minds of our readers that the description is *not* of a cent which had been altered from 1798, but an impression from the *dies originally cut in 1798*, but not used until 1799, when it became necessary to change the date on the obverse die to correspond with the current

year. This variety is much rarer than the other, which we describe next; but it has not been received among collectors with sufficient confidence to sell for its full value at the coin sales, simply because no competent judge had seen specimens fine or sharp enough to satisfy himself of the originality of the pieces; also because several inexperienced cataloguers have for several years described altered specimens as genuine, which fraud was always discovered on the day of exhibition; many collectors began to associate the words "ninety-nine" and "counterfeit" so often, that they dared not buy for fear of being swindled; and the consequence is, that cents of this date and variety, although being the rarest of the series, sell for but little more than some of the commoner dates. It is to inform our readers how to judge between the genuine and the fraudulent that these articles are written; everything being duly considered before statements are made, and *then* we stand by them.



1799 Perfect Date Cent

No. 2, with reverse A. Perfect date. The date is  $4\frac{1}{3}$  wide through the centre, and is curved, but not evenly spaced; the 1 is  $\frac{3}{4}$  distant from the lower curl, and 7 is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  from same point; the final 9 inclines toward its fellow, which brings these two figures quite close together; they were both made with the same punch, and are



exact fac-similes of each other; the word LIBERTY measures 9½ at base; from the tip of the nose to nearest point of Y is 3½, and from the same point to the lowest point of L, the distance is 10¼.

Reverse—Same as that of No. 1, except that the letters have been retouched with a graver; the figures of the fraction appear larger from the same cause; and now for the proof of genuineness always found on the reverse of No. 2, but not on No. 1, and which was caused by a small scale of steel being removed from the die either during the softening

process, preparatory to the aforementioned retouching, or during the tempering afterward; forming on the coin a small projection, triangular in shape, as prominent on some specimens as the letters; it is seen between the left upper corner of T in CENT, and the right lower corner of E in ONE; a slight scratch is also found near the top of N in CENT, just to the right of the compass or centre mark. All 1799 cents, of course supposing them to be passably distinct, which do not show the peculiarities herein described, are counterfeits without doubt.

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	1758, 1759, 1760 2 scudos Pn Mint. Ferd. VI. V. F. ....	12.00
	1767, 1768, 1769, 1770 2 scudos Pn mint. Car. III. V. F. ....	12.00
	1913 5 pesos. Workman chiseling rock. Rev. Arm. Unc. ....	10.00
	1920 5 pesos. Head of Bolivar. Rev. Arms. V. F. ....	9.00
COSTA RICA	1855 2 escudos. Indian Princess leaning on pedestal with bow and arrows in right hand. Rev. Arms and date. V. F. ....	12.00
	1867 Cinco pesos. Fine ....	11.00
	1900 10 Colones. Bust of Columbus. Rev. Arms and date. Unc. ....	10.00
CUBA	1916 4 pesos. Head of Marti. Rev. Republic de Cuba and Arms. V. F. ....	10.00
ECUADOR	1899, 1900 Diez Sucres. Bust of Bolivar. Rev. Arms and value. Brilliant Unc. ....	12.50
GUATEMALA	1874, 1877 5 pesos. Rep. Guatemala, laureated head of Rev. Rev. Arms and date. Very rare. Listed in Raymond \$60.00. Our price, Unc. ....	40.00
	1926 5 Quetzales. Quetzal on pillar. Rev. Arms. Ex. F. ....	14.00
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	1873 5 pesos Culiacan Mint. Unc. ....	12.50
	1873 5 pesos Culiacan Mint. Unc. ....	12.50
	1874 5 pesos Hermosillo Mint. One of rarest mints. V. F. ...	15.00
	1877 5 pesos Zacatecas Mint. Unc. ....	12.00
	1906 10 pesos, reduced size. V. F. ....	11.00
PERU	1863 5 soles. Seated figure of liberty. Rev. Arms. V. F. ...	12.00
	1906 1 libre. Bust of Indian. Rev. Arms. Unc. ....	10.00
PHILIPPINES	1868 4 pesos. Bust of Isabel. Rev. Arms. V. F. ...	12.00

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# Roman Republican Denarii

By R. W. JOHNSON

Part One



There are three major questions which immediately suggest themselves to the mind of a prospective collector of this series. They are:—

- (1) What is a denarius?
- (2) Of what importance was this coin in the ancient world?
- (3) Why should I be interested in forming a collection of the denarii of the Roman Republic?

A really comprehensive answer to each of these questions is impractical at this point. However, we will attempt to open up a few vistas, hoping that the reader's curiosity will be sufficiently aroused to encourage him to wait for a more complete revelation as our story unfolds.

In the first place just what is a denarius? It may be most simply described as a small silver coin, slightly larger than a dime, having a normal metallic content roughly equivalent to 14 cents in U. S. currency (20 cents at the present gold value of the dollar).

The purity of the silver in this coinage remained fairly constant during the Roman republican era (excepting of course the debased plated denarii), and our figure may be considered a good average for their metal value in terms of modern currency.

How much food, clothing or lodging could the ancient Roman procure with say, ten denarii? Frankly, we do not know—everything is conjecture. All we can say on this subject is that there seem to have been certain times in Roman history where for definite commodities or services the denarius appears to have had the worth of one dollar today. This figure must be taken with the greatest reserve. It never applied universally.

Regarding the importance of the denarius in the economics of Rome it may be stated that it largely, (although never quite entirely) superseded the earlier bronze of the Republic, and under the Empire spread over the entire civilized world of that day.



But our interest in Rome and her coinage is more personal in its nature. What were the Romans like and what was their mode of living? It is with this viewpoint in mind that we search for the answer to our third query—Why should I collect this series?

The bald statement that the republican coinage acted as a mirror of Roman life is hardly an exaggeration. As an example of this trend we might consider the religious attitudes of the common people. Gods and goddesses played a daily role in their affairs and we should expect to find some recognition of this fact on the coinage. Indeed there are many instances in which the likenesses of the gods appear on the obverse of republican denarii, as well as in mythological scenes on their reverses. In the realm of legend alone we see Romulus and Remus, the Dioscuri, etc., and trace tales of the semi-mythical kings of pre-republican Rome. Then there is Roman history itself. We meet with numerous allusions to historical events in our collection, and note the portraits of such famous characters as Pompey the Great, Brutus, Mark Anthony and Julius Caesar. It is true we are not shown the Roman home, but there are several fine representations of basilicas and temples, and even one of the celebrated aqueducts of Rome.

Many additional angles appear as we continue our study. Did you know that the Romans were humorists? A casual examination of the so-called "canting" type will prove it. Would you be interested in collecting a series of coins with the names of some of the most noted personages from illustrious Roman families inscribed on them. This is not a difficult goal to attain as minting officials often came from the "upper crust" of Roman society. There is also the question of style and dating the coinage—a lifetime avocation in itself.

But to proceed with our tale. The cities of south Italy were, almost without exception, settled by cultured

Greeks. Deriving their inspiration and tradition from the beautiful coinage of the motherland, the colonial artists and die-cutters were not slow to put forth distinctive issues of their own. These pieces, together with those of Greek Sicily, the Romans bartered, admired and copied, particularly the silver didrachm which was later to be tariffed at approximately two denarii.

In the early part of the third century B.C. Pyrrhus of Epirus attempted to form an aggressive confederation of these western Greek cities against the growing strength of Rome. Carthage, also in fear of passing into eclipse before so dangerous a foe as Pyrrhus, allied herself to the Romans. Rome carried the war to the Greeks and south Italy soon became the major battleground in this history-making struggle. In order to pay the troops a military coinage, known to us as Romano-Campanian, was issued—Romano from the word "Romanom" (of the Roman's) and Campanian because minted in this region of south Italy.

The first significant type of the series (fig. 1), appears to have been current early in the war. It displays the head of Mars (god of battle) on the obverse and on the reverse a horse's head, symbolical of Carthage, Rome's ally. The legend "Romano," previously referred to, is inscribed in raised characters on a tablet in exergue. The denomination, a didrachm, was a direct continuation of the Greek monetary system. A contemporaneous piece (fig. 2) shows the head of Hercules resting on his favorite weapon, the club, and the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus. Hercules was venerated by both the Greeks and the Romans; whereas the wolf and twins belong solely to Roman folk-lore.

At a slightly later date we see the personified head of Roma wearing a Phrygian helmet with the accompanying reverse type of Victory bearing a palm branch, no doubt copied from the coinage of Agathocles of Syracuse in Sicily (fig 3). Appearing at about the

same time are two pieces (figs. 4 and 5), again commemorating the Carthaginian alliance. Figure 4 shows the head of Mars and a prancing cavalry horse of Carthage; fig. 5 a helmeted head of the war god and the rather dignified head of a charger. The more familiar Latin word "Roma" replaces the somewhat archaic "Romano" on the reverse.

We now come to the last coin (fig. 6) which may be definitely classed as Romano-Campanian. Some authorities believe that this piece was issued after the Pyrrhic war. In any event all agree that it circulated concurrently with the first denarii, whose early development

we shall trace in our next article. The obverse of this coin exhibits the janiform head of Apollo (i.e. two heads joined back to back, as in all representations of the Roman god Janus). On the reverse we see Jupiter riding in a chariot drawn by four horses (a quadriga). At the reins is the figure of Victory. Below on a plaque with sunken lettering (incuse) we note the inscription "Roma." All the preceding coins were didrachms. The Romano-Campanian silver issues were terminated in 212 B.C.

(To be Continued).

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